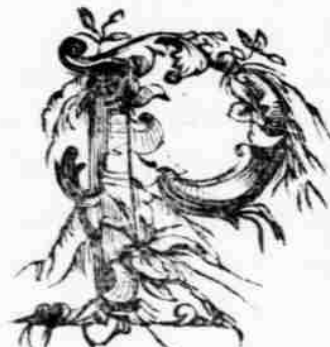




THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Vol. 2.

RALEIGH, N. C., JANUARY 26, 1888.

No. 48.

DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

FARMERS' NATIONAL ALLIANCE AND CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA.

President—C. W. Macune, Texas.
First Vice-President—L. L. Polk, N. C.
Vice-Pres't for Ala.—H. P. Bone.
Vice-Pres't for Ark.—W. H. Moore.
Vice-Pres't for Fla.—Oswald Wilson.
Vice-Pres't for Ky.—S. B. Irwin.
Vice-Pres't for La.—Linn Tanner.
Vice-Pres't for Miss.—R. T. Love.
Vice-Pres't for Mo.—A. B. Johnson.
Vice-Pres't for N. C.—S. B. Alexander.
Vice-Pres't for Tenn.—I. H. McDowell.
Vice-Pres't for Tex.—M. D. K. Taylor.
Secretary—E. B. Warren, Texas.
Treasurer—A. E. Gardner, Tenn.
Chaplain—Rev. J. C. Jones, La.
Lecturer—Ben. Terrell, Tex.
Asst. Lecturer—J. A. Tetts, La.
Door Keeper—Newt. Gresham, Ala.
Asst. Door Keeper—H. C. Brown, Ky.
Serg't-at-Arms—T. E. Groom, Miss.

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.
President—S. B. Alexander, Charlotte, N. C.

Vice-President—T. Ivey, Ashpole, N. C.
Secretary—L. L. Polk, Raleigh, N. C.
Treasurer—J. D. Allen, Falls, N. C.
Lecturer—Geo. Wilcox, Carabonton, N. C.
Assistant Lecturer—D. D. McIntyre, Laurinburg, N. C.
Chaplain—Rev. E. J. Edwards, Cedar Creek, N. C.
Door Keeper—W. H. Tomlinson, Fayetteville, N. C.
Assistant Door Keeper—R. T. Rush, Mt. Gilead, N. C.
Sergeant-at-Arms—J. S. Holt, Chalk Level, N. C.

THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.
President—Elias Carr, Old Sparta, Edgecombe county.

B. F. Hester, Oxford, Secretary; S. Otho Wilson, Vineyard, and W. E. Benbow, Oak Ridge, Assistant Secretaries.

STATE GRANGE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

W. R. Williams, Falkland, Pitt county, Master.

R. T. J. Ludwig, Mt. Pleasant, Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE—OFFICERS.

John Robinson, Commissioner.
T. K. Bruner, Acting Secretary.
Dr. H. B. Battle, Chemist and Director of Experiment Station.
John T. Patrick, General Agent Immigration.

N. C. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

W. G. Upchurch, Raleigh, President; John Nichols, Raleigh, Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

President—J. Van Lindley, Pomona.
Secretary—S. Otho Wilson, Vineyard.

VENTILATION IN STABLES.

The absence of proper ventilation in stock barns and stables is one of the most serious evils known in the care of stock. These buildings have either no means of ventilation except the doors and windows, causing through drafts and suddenly reducing the temperature, or else the building is left so open that there are currents of air passing in all directions. As to correct ventilation either in country or city it seems to be the last thing thought of.

Correct ventilation consists in such means of gently moving the air, that while the temperature of the stable shall be fairly equable, there shall be little or no animal odor or that of decaying excrement. It may best be conserved by a simple system that while admitting fresh air, and carrying off the foul air, by equally simple means of deodorization, the proper effect is secured. First, the stable must be made so tight that air cannot pour in through cracks and ill-fitting windows and doors. If we place a louver on the roof of the barn—an extension of the roof upwards, protected by slat blinds, communicating with a hollow shaft two to three feet square connecting between the stable and roof, the air will rise through this, carrying off the foul grasses. If in addition to this we provide narrow slits in the wall, with a board arranged so the incoming air shall be deflected downward, and furnished with a trap that may be closed as required, we can get plenty of pure air, and in the

proper quantities as wanted. This is one of the most simple means, and also effective. Now if we make the shaft large enough inside, so hay and other fodder may be passed down it by means of tightly fitting doors, at proper distances through the mow, we may have two economies at once, the shaft or chute leading to the feeding floor. Of course, if the building is only of one story, no air shaft will be needed; the air may escape directly from the louver, or even from slits properly guarded under the eaves. In relation to deodorization: This may be by means of dry, finely pulverized clay or loam in the stalls. This will absorb the liquids, the essence of the manure, and only the saturated portions are removed to the manure pile. It will pay far more than the cost, and with plenty of bedding, another important economy, you conserve the comfort of the animals as well. If you have not the prepared earth, use ground gypsum freely. It will act both mechanically and chemically, is in itself a valuable fertilizer, and cheap. The other plan is to sprinkle the stalls with a solution of copperas (sulphate of iron.) It is safe to say that the liquid manure treated as we have described would give double the value, than where treated in the ordinary manner.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

APPLYING MANURE IN WINTER

If the soil is properly prepared manure may be applied to advantage at any time of the year, so that it does not interfere with other more pressing work. If land is ploughed in the fall for corn, in no way can manure be more advantageously applied than by hauling it out in the winter and scattering it over the ploughed ground direct from the wagon, the whole to remain so until the following spring, when, by running the harrow over it; it will not only thoroughly intermix the manure with the surface soil (a matter of the greatest moment), but place the latter in the best possible condition for checking off preparatory to planting. But the greatest advantage of this mode of applying manure for corn is that the fertilizing properties of the manure become completely absorbed by the surface soil, and is in its most soluble condition to be appropriated as soon as needed by the feeder rootlets of the young corn, giving it a most healthy and rapid growth in the start. Not only so, but by scattering it direct from the wagon the work is not only done quicker, but the manure is more evenly distributed over the field if thrown in heaps to be hand-scattered in the spring. By scattering it direct from the wagon the work, too, is all done at once; whereas, if thrown into heaps to remain so until spring, a considerable portion of its properties is either washed away by rains or sinks into the ground, leaving spots where the heaps stood too highly manured for the balance of the field, thereby occasioning loss in the general yield of the crop.

Another thing, in hauling out manure over ploughed ground in winter much unnecessary labor to the horses, as well as wear and tear of the wagon, particularly when the ground is more or less frozen, may be avoided by hauling it the way the furrows run instead of across them. Nor should it be attempted to scatter the manure over too large a surface. Like all other work on the farm, what is worth doing at all is worth doing well, and it is more profitable to manure five acres well than to half manure ten acres, the labor of cultivating the latter being doubly that of the former and the yield about the same. The work of making and applying manure is certainly the most important that can engage the attention of the farmer, and, he should see to it that in the application none of it is lost, and that the land on which it is applied is all benefited alike. And then, with thoroughly prepared soil, carefully selected seed and thorough cultivation, he may rest easy about the yield.—*Baltimore Sun.*

TEACH SCHOOL CHILDREN THE TRADES.

We are soon to have an industrial school and an agricultural college, operated by the State at Raleigh.

All right. They will do a great deal of good, and they will work a benefit to the State; but we do not believe that they will fill the bill.

The *Patriot* believes that the time has come when the trades ought to be taught in the public schools.

We do not mean to say that every school boy should learn to be a carpenter, or a blacksmith, or a machinist; nor would we require every school girl to study mantua-making or cooking. We would not make the learning of any trade compulsory; we would leave it to the option of the children and their parents, just as one now studies law, or medicine, or theology, or not, as his tastes and opportunities incline him.

The common school system is a great and a noble institution, but it is not practical enough for this day and generation.

The Nation and the States look well after the professions, belles lettres, lawyers, doctors, ministers and warriors; but what are they doing for the trades and the mechanical arts?

It is a great satisfaction as well as a great profit to a man to have a fair education, and be able to read and write and creditably transact the ordinary business affairs of life; but that of itself does not win bread.

To educate a youth, simply for the purpose of enabling him to make money, is not adequate for the duties of exalted manhood; but how to earn a livelihood is the leading and the constant question which throbs at every honest man's heart, and the State ought to give him the opportunity of supplying himself with the means to answer it—a trade if not a profession.

The doctrine of utility is to be applied largely to the great body of common people when fitting them for the battles of life, which are very earnest and very real. What then is a suitable education for the masses? What profession, pursuit, or trade is best adapted to give the person a living in this busy and crowded world of the survival of the fittest?

Read the course of study in the schools, as they are now conducted, and toward what does it lead the children, as viewed from the practical side of life? Does it not hold out to many of them, especially those in the humbler walks of life, false ideas and false hopes which cause them to become discontented with their proper sphere in life? Does it not place a vaulting ambition in their bosoms which makes them restless in after years and which causes them to become dissatisfied with themselves and their lot?

As a class, school boys do not now want to perform actual manual labor for a living; many of them are unwilling to learn trades. The majority of them expect to find some light occupation, something "respectable," which will not require them to soil their hands or wear "work clothes." They aim to become book-keepers, salesmen, clerks, politicians, officers of some kind—at any rate, to obtain a squire position; but they are not disposed to become bricklayers, stonecutters, plumbers, carpenters, machinists, printers, engineers, or anything that requires labor with the hands.

Men who understand either of the above named trades readily obtain work in Washington City at \$4.50 and \$5.00 per day, and that is about what they earn in all large cities. Clerks generally do not average \$10 per week, or \$1.50 per day. This latter class of young men are overcrowding the cities, which is a proof of the false education they receive. There is something wrong somewhere.

The remedy for this evil is to be found in schools where the boy is taught a trade before it is sought to make money through him, and where the principle that it is manly as well

as honest to perform manual labor is inculcated into him at the same time.

No modification of the old apprentice system is necessary, nor hardly desirable. Teach the youth the use of the tools and the signs of the trade; then let him go into the shops of the journeyman where he will acquire speed and become a mechanic.

In Europe trade schools have become a necessity in the competition between nations, and the following figures will show that they have about become a necessity with us, for the same reason:

The last census shows that there were 29,000 mechanics in the building trade in New York city; of that number only 13,000, or less than one-half, were of American birth, and the same proportion of foreigners were employed at the other trades.

We offer these suggestions to our teachers and educators; we ask them to consider the question, and we should like to hear from some of the more prominent of them on the subject.

The plain, practical, personal, public schools of a quarter of a century ago were excellent institutions; but the somewhat fancy public schools of today, with their "trimmings," do not fit our youth to earn a living.

Now, they ought to—and why shouldn't they?—*Greensboro Patriot.*

BOYS AS INVENTORS

Some of the most important inventions have been the work of mere boys. The invention of the valve motion to the steam engine was made by a boy. Watt left the engine in a very incomplete condition, from the fact that he had no way to open or close the valves, except by means of levers operated by hand. He set up a large engine at one of the mines, and a boy was hired to work these valve levers. Although this was not hard work, yet it required his constant attention. As he was working these levers, he saw the parts of the engine moved in the right direction, and at the exact time he had to open or close the valves.

He produced a long, strong cord, and made one end fast to the proper part of the engine and the other end to the valve lever. Then he had the perfect satisfaction of seeing the engine move off with perfect regularity of motion. A short time after the foreman came around and saw the boy playing marbles at the door. Looking at the engine he saw the ingenuity of the boy, and also the advantage of so great an invention. Mr. Watt then carried out the boy's inventive genius in a practical form, and made the steam engine a perfect automatic working machine.

The power loom is the invention of a farmer boy, who had never seen or heard of such a thing. He cut out one with a knife, and after he had got it all done he with great enthusiasm showed it to his father, who at once kicked it to pieces, saying that he would have no boy about him who would spend his time on such foolish things. The boy was afterward apprenticed to a blacksmith, and he soon found that his new master was kind and took a lively interest in him. He made a loom of what was left of the one his father had broken up, which he showed to his master. The blacksmith saw that he had no common boy for an apprentice, and that the invention was a very valuable one.

He immediately had a loom constructed under the supervision of the boy. It worked to their perfect satisfaction, and so the blacksmith furnished the means to manufacture the looms, the boy to receive half the profits. In about a year the blacksmith wrote to the boy's father that he should visit him and bring with him a wealthy gentleman, who was the inventor of the celebrated power loom. You may be able to judge the astonishment of the old man when his son was presented as the inventor, who told him that the loom was the same as the model he (his father) had kicked to pieces a year before.—*Exchange.*

DIFFERENCE IN FARM PRACTICE.

Whenever it is possible to draw out the experiences of farmers in regard to any kind of crop or stock management, very considerable differences will be brought out.

One farmer will drop two grains of corn because he does not believe in thinning, another will drop three or four so as to be sure of a good stand, and then if he finds the corn too thick will thin, preferred thinning rather than running the risk of being obliged to replant more or less.

One cuts potatoes to single eyes, but will drop two cuts in each hill, another cuts two eyes and drops one cut in each hill, another plants the small potatoes whole, but splits open the large ones, another plants whole potatoes large or small. One runs out the furrows deep, plants deep, and cultivates deep; another plants deep but cultivates shallow, while still another plants shallow and cultivates deep.

In sowing oats one plows his ground thoroughly, sows his oats, then harrows, and after rolls so as to leave the soil in as good a condition as possible. Another sows the oats broadcast on the unplowed land, and then works them into the soil with the cultivator, and then fines and levels the soil with the harrow. Occasionally we find one that sows his oats with a drill. One prefers to sow grass seed on land already seeded to wheat. Another with oats, while still another prefers to have the soil in a good condition and then sow the seed alone.

In the same way one could go through the whole category of farm work. Of course there must be considerable difference in the plan of work in different sections, with different soils, but with the same soil and with the same conditions of growth, there must be a best plan. Some one of the different plans must be better than others, and whichever this may be, that one ought to be adopted.

An interchange of experience is valuable, but it can be made more so if, in addition, it can be supplemented with experiments, carefully tried, of the different plans of work with the results given carefully, with a view of determining which is the best.—*N. J. S., in Farm, Field and Stockman.*

GRASS IS KING.

I have convinced myself that grass is indeed the sheet-anchor of the farmer, or rather increase, the fertility of our land, we must grow grass and feed it out at home, and like the Eastern farmer utilize our corn stover. This means keeping more cattle. The raising of green crops to turn under is well enough if carried out, but in my experience the most profitable time to turn under peas, clover, and green rye is after it has passed through cattle. We cannot afford to do it before as a rule. Sow the land to rye in the fall, cut when ready either green or for seed, return an equivalent of manure broad-cast, then with one-horse turning plows, plow the land, letting a boy follow every second or third furrow, and drop peas in the furrow, harrow lightly and roll, when you will, with an ordinary season, get a fine crop of peas and crab grass, which as a fodder is hard to beat when properly cured so as to not lose the leaves of the peas.—*E. A. Bishop, in Rural New Yorker.*

OFFICIAL ORGANS OF FARMERS ALLIANCE.

National Alliance—*Southern Mercury*, Dallas, Texas.
Alabama—*Alliance News*, Calera.
Arkansas—*State Wheel Enterprise*, Little Rock.
Mississippi—*The Farmer*, Winona.
North Carolina—*THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER*, Raleigh.
Louisiana—*The Union*, Choudrant.
Tennessee and Kentucky—*The Toiler*, Union City, Tenn.
Free Speech, Beaumont, Texas, of the counties of Jefferson, Orange, Tyler, Hardin, Chambers, Liberty.
Florida—*Farmers' Florida Alliance*.